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"Grey are the Cotswold houses, stone roofed and steeply gabled, welcoming, friendly, venerable; and surely there is something very delightful in the thought that just now young America looks down (from a considerable height too) on these same stone roofs and gables. For young America is flying (literally, not figuratively) all over the Cotswolds. One wonders what the church and the abbey and the house think when the lighthearted air-men almost shave their roofs."

This volume is devoted to a study of the Cotswold people, not so much those of to-day as of an earlier time. Many of the stories are of twenty or so years ago, yet they do not seem out of fashion now because the character drawing is humanly true to life.

These are not short stories in the sense of having structural form and completeness. They are rather informal sketches, though full of charm and beauty, and with the accidental aimlessness of life. They are character studies with little thought for plot and perhaps because of that achieve a special effect of reality.

Mrs. Birkhead's Bonnet gives a picture of placid village life, with a kind hearted woman as the central figure. The first scene is interesting, showing the swarm of bees settling upon the new baby out for her first airing, and the delight of the

nurse and Mrs. Birkins over the incident since, as local superstition has it, an infant upon whom a swarm of bees settles without stinging him during the first month of his life, is destined to good luck. (He's lucky not to be stung, at any rate.)

A *Philosopher of the Cotswolds* shows us a gardener, masterful in his own domain, refusing to countenance amateur efforts on his soil, yet less pronounced in matters political and religious. He marches in the procession of each political party on election day and votes for each candidate impartially, while he goes to chapel instead of to church "because they 'ollers more, an' 'tis more lovelier loike."

Especially those has for its chief personage a little boy. "They did not know that Billy had so many friends until he lay a dying. Then they knew."

"It takes some of us more than four years to make one friend. Billy had only lived four years altogether, but every one he knew was his friend and he knew every one in his little world."

At *Blue House Lock* introduces to us one Dorcas, the keeper of the lock; *Keturah* is a picture of a mischievous small girl; *Mrs. Cushion's Children* is a pleasant study in imagination; *A Cotswold Bar-Maid* is self-explanatory as to character; *Fuzzy Wuzzy's Watch* shows a college student and a small boy; *The Dark Lady* is an analysis of a strange woman, while *Our Fathers Have Told Us* is a story of a butler. A *Giotto of the Cotswolds* is an appealing picture of a little boy with a real genius for art who is ill-treated by his foster mother, made to wear dresses to save the expenses of boy's clothes and of whom the woman says "He's the most onandiest, nothingly child you ever see—always a-scribblin' an' a-messin' and a-moonin'."

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